

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Silanised, structurally modified, pyrogenically produced silicas,

characterised by groups fixed to the surface, wherein the groups are alkylsilyl ($\text{SiC}_n\text{H}_{2n+1}$, with n=2 – 18) wherein structural modification is done by a ball mill to have a DBP value of at least 10% lower than the DBP value of non-structurally modified silica and said pyrogenically produced silicas having been treated with the compound $(\text{CH}_3\text{O})_3\text{SiC}_{16}\text{H}_{33}$ (hexadecyltrimethoxysilane) or $(\text{CH}_3\text{O})_3\text{SiC}_8\text{H}_{17}$ (octyltrimethoxysilane).

- 2.-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) Process for the production of the silanised, structurally modified, pyrogenically produced silicas according to Claim 1,

characterised in that the pyrogenically produced silicas are placed in a mixer, the silicas are sprayed, optionally first with water and then with the compound from the group $(\text{RO})_3\text{SiC}_n\text{H}_{2n+1}$ while mixing intensively, mixed for a further 15 to 30 minutes and then tempered at a temperature of 100 to 160°C for a period of 1 to 3 hours, structurally modified and/or optionally post-ground.

5. (Previously Presented) Process for the production of the silanised, structurally modified, pyrogenically produced silicas according to Claim 4,

characterised in that an additional tempering is allowed to follow the structural modification and/or post-grinding.

6. (Previously Presented) Lacquer composition comprising a lacquer vehicle and the silanised, structurally modified, pyrogenically produced silicas of Claim 1.

7. (Currently Amended) A silanised, structurally modified, pyrogenically produced silica, said silica having been structurally modified by ball milling,

having alkylsilyl groups of the formula SiC_nH_{2n+1}, with n=2 – 18 and

having the following physical chemical properties:

<u>BET surface area</u>	<u>25-400 m²/g</u>
<u>Average size of primary particles</u>	<u>5-50 nm</u>
<u>pH value</u>	<u>3-10</u>
<u>Carbon content</u>	<u>0.1-25%</u>
<u>DBP value in %</u>	<u>at least 10% lower than the DBP value of a corresponding silanised, non-structurally modified silica,</u>

wherein the pyrogenically produced silica has been treated with a compound selected from the group consisting of (CH₃O)₂SiC₁₆H₃₃ and (CH₃O)₃SiC₈H₁₇.

8.-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A process for the production of the silanised, structurally modified, pyrogenically produced silica according to Claim 7, comprising placing the pyrogenically produced silica in a mixer, spraying the silica, optionally first with water, and then spraying with [[a]] said compound having the formula (RO)₃SiC_nH_{2n+1} wherein n is 2 to 18 and

R-is-alkyl, while mixing intensively, mixing for a further 15 to 30 minutes and then tempering at a temperature of 100 to 160°C for a period of 1 to 3 hours, structurally modifying by ball milling and and/or optionally post-grinding.

12. (Previously Presented) The process for the production of the silanised, structurally modified, pyrogenically produced silica according to Claim 11, further comprising additionally tempering following structural modification and/or post-grinding.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 11, wherein post grinding takes place by using an air-jet mill or pin mill.

15. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 12, wherein tempering takes place in a drying cupboard or in a fluidized bed.

16. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 15, wherein the tempering takes place under protective gas.

17. (Previously Presented) A lacquer containing the silanised, structurally modified, pyrogenically produced silica of Claim 1.

18. (Previously Presented) A lacquer containing the silanised, structurally modified, pyrogenically produced silica of Claim 7.

19. (Previously Presented) A surface having applied thereto a coating produced from the lacquer of Claim 17.

20. (Previously Presented) The surface according to Claim 19, which is metal.

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Substitution Amend. dated June 19, 2006
(Resp. to Not. of Non-Compliant Amend.)
Resp. to Final OA of March 7, 2007

21.-22. (Cancelled)